GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:669
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TO CHINA AND RUSSIA
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister recently visited China and Russia;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the bilateral agreements signed on the occasion?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) External Affairs Minister visited Moscow on 12 October 2007 to co-chair the 13th session of the Inter-Government Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological & Cultural Cooperation with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Alexander Zhukov. The Commission reviewed economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, including progress achieved by its five Working Groups on Trade & Economy, Mines & Metallurgy, Energy, Technology and Culture & Tourism. A Protocol on the Commission's meeting was signed by the two co-Chairs.

External Affairs Minister visited Harbin (China) on 24-25 October 2007 for the India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The three Ministers discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest and trilateral cooperation. Specifically, the three sides agreed to hold a trilateral business forum in New Delhi in December 2007, a seminar on the evolution of geo-political strategic trends in 2008 and working level discussions in the fields of agriculture, disaster management, medicine and health. At the conclusion of the Trilateral meeting, a Joint CommuniquÃ© was issued on 24 October 2007. Separately, on the sidelines of this visit, External Affairs Minister held bilateral meetings with the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Sergei Lavrov and the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yang Jiechi.